GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
MAINTENANCE OF DIGNITY OF PADAMSHRI AWARD
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to maintain the dignity of Padamshri Awards in view of recent incidences of refusals to accept the Padamshri Awards and criticisms in declaration/selection of these honours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps in compliance of directives given by Supreme Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a)&(b): Padma Awards are the highest civilian awards in the country, with an aura of their own. Selection for Padma Awards is made on the recommendations of a broad based committee of eminent persons. No awards are conferred except on the recommendation of the Padma Awards Committee.

Criticisms in relation to the process of selection, the choice of individuals chosen for the awards and the methodology of presentation of awards to those who cannot attend the investiture ceremony have appeared in the print and electronic media or have been conveyed to government through letters. These are looked at in a positive manner to maintain the dignity of the Awards. Some persons do decline the awards on grounds of their principles or personal convictions. Refusals on such grounds cannot be considered to be lowering the dignity of the Awards.

(c)&(d): In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Government had constituted a High level Review Committee in 1996 under the Chairmanship of the then Vice-President of India to look into the system of granting awards. The recommendations made by the committee were accepted by the Government and have been implemented.

(e): Does not arise.